

## 5 Reasons You Should Take “*Preparing Your ECS for NEPA Approval*”

The class “*Preparing your ECS for NEPA Approval*” is an important course to take for the following reasons:

1. The class is intended to give students the tools to prepare an Environmental Classification Summary (ECS). The ECS is the traditional document local agencies use to document NEPA Documented Categorical Exclusion (DCE) projects. The course will walk participants through each section of the ECS and outline each environmental requirement and process procedures.
2. This class will focus on NEPA DCEs, but will briefly discuss Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and Environmental Assessments (EA). These two categories are more time consuming, complex processes. The course provides an overview of each document and the initial steps to take in developing the document. The course does not go in to great detail on EAs and EISs, though, as these types of projects only represent a small portion of H&LP's projects.
3. We've continued to revise the training curriculum for the course. Currently, it represents a good cookbook for navigating through the ECS document. The course material provides additional information on the requirements associated with each environmental consideration, the process and procedures for ensuring compliance, examples of report content, and common pitfalls to avoid.
4. While we have an agenda for the material we will present, the course is structured to be informal and allow questions and answers to drive the bulk of the discussion. The intent of the course is to assist you in your future environmental compliance efforts. As such, we want to make sure that you leave the course with your questions answered.
5. Environmental considerations are very dynamic. The course offers the opportunity to catch up on the latest and greatest in regulatory and process changes. The forum also offers an opportunity for participants to share their experiences in completing environmental documentation and any issues or concerns that occurred.